FSSAI Central License: Complete Guide to Registration & Process (2026)

Introduction

The **FSSAI Central License** is one of the most important food licenses in India. It is issued by the **Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI)** to large food businesses that operate across different states or have a high annual turnover. Every food business must follow the rules of the Food Safety and Standards Act, 2006 to ensure that food is safe for consumers.

If your business manufactures, imports, exports, stores, distributes, or sells food products on a large scale, obtaining an **FSSAI Central License** is mandatory. Without this license, your business may face legal action, penalties, or even closure.

This article explains everything about the **FSSAI Central License**, including its eligibility, benefits, documents, application process, validity, renewal, fees, and why it is important for your business.

What is an FSSAI Central License?

The **FSSAI Central License** is a food safety license issued by the Central Licensing Authority under the Food Safety and Standards Authority of India (FSSAI). It is required for large food businesses that have operations in multiple states or meet specific business criteria.

The main purpose of the license is to ensure that food products are manufactured, processed, stored, transported, and sold in a hygienic and safe manner.

Who Needs an FSSAI Central License?

The following businesses generally require an **FSSAI Central License**:

- Food manufacturers with large production capacity
- Food importers
- Food exporters
- 100% Export-Oriented Units

- Large food processing units
- Central Government agencies involved in food business
- Businesses operating in more than one state
- E-commerce food businesses
- Large warehouses and storage units
- Food transporters with a large fleet
- Airports and seaports handling food products
- Hotels with a five-star rating or above
- Large restaurants and catering businesses (as per FSSAI criteria)

Eligibility for FSSAI Central License

A business generally requires an **FSSAI Central License** if:

- Annual turnover exceeds **₹20 crore** (for most businesses as per applicable criteria).
- The business imports or exports food products.
- The business operates in multiple states.
- It manufactures food on a large scale.
- It falls under categories notified by FSSAI for Central Licensing.

Businesses should always check the latest FSSAI eligibility requirements before applying.

Benefits of FSSAI Central License

Obtaining an **FSSAI Central License** offers many advantages.

1. Legal Compliance

It helps your business comply with Indian food safety laws.

2. Customer Trust

Consumers prefer food products from licensed businesses because they trust the quality and safety standards.

3. Business Expansion

A Central License allows businesses to operate across multiple states.

4. Import and Export

It is mandatory for businesses importing or exporting food products.

5. Better Brand Reputation

An FSSAI license improves the credibility of your business.

6. Easy Government Approvals

Many government departments and authorities ask for an FSSAI license during registrations and approvals.

7. Increased Market Opportunities

Many supermarkets, online marketplaces, and distributors require suppliers to have an FSSAI license.

Documents Required for FSSAI Central License

The following documents are commonly required:

- Filled application form
- Passport-size photograph
- PAN Card
- Aadhaar Card of proprietor/director/partner
- Identity proof
- Address proof
- Business registration certificate
- Certificate of Incorporation (for companies)
- Partnership Deed or LLP Agreement (if applicable)
- GST Registration
- List of food products
- Layout plan of the premises
- List of machinery and equipment
- Water testing report from a recognized laboratory
- Food Safety Management System (FSMS) plan
- Proof of possession of premises (ownership or rent agreement)
- NOC from the local authority (if applicable)
- Import Export Code (IEC) for import/export businesses

Additional documents may be required depending on the type of food business.

Step-by-Step Process to Apply for an FSSAI Central License

The application process is simple if all documents are ready.

Step 1: Check Eligibility

Determine whether your business requires an FSSAI Central License based on turnover, business type, and operations.

Step 2: Collect Documents

Prepare all required documents before starting the application.

Step 3: Fill the Application

Complete the application with accurate business details and upload the necessary documents.

Step 4: Pay the Government Fee

Pay the prescribed application fee based on the license validity.

Step 5: Document Verification

The licensing authority verifies the submitted documents.

Step 6: Inspection (If Required)

An FSSAI officer may inspect the business premises to check hygiene and food safety practices.

Step 7: License Approval

If everything is satisfactory, the **FSSAI Central License** is issued with a unique 14-digit FSSAI license number.

Validity of FSSAI Central License

The **FSSAI Central License** can be obtained for a period ranging from **1 year to 5 years**.

Businesses should choose the validity period according to their requirements.

Renewal of FSSAI Central License

The license should be renewed before its expiry.

It is advisable to apply for renewal at least **30 days before the expiry date** to avoid penalties or interruptions in business operations.

If the license expires without renewal, the business may need to apply for a fresh license.

FSSAI Central License Fees

The government fee depends on:

- Type of food business
- License category
- Number of years selected
- Business activity

Additional professional service charges may apply if you use a consultant for documentation and filing.

Responsibilities of FSSAI Central License Holders

After obtaining the license, businesses must:

- Maintain proper hygiene.
- Follow food safety standards.
- Ensure clean storage facilities.
- Keep production records.
- Use quality raw materials.
- Allow inspections by authorities.
- Display the FSSAI license number on product labels where applicable.
- Renew the license before expiry.
- Follow all FSSAI regulations.

Common Reasons for Application Rejection

Applications may be rejected due to:

- Incorrect information
- Incomplete documents
- Poor hygiene conditions
- Invalid business proof
- Improper layout plan
- Failure during inspection
- Non-compliance with FSSAI guidelines

Carefully reviewing the application before submission helps avoid delays.

Difference Between FSSAI Basic Registration, State License, and Central License

Particular	Basic Registration	State License	Central License
Suitable For	Small businesses	Medium businesses	Large businesses
Annual Turnover	Up to ₹12 lakh	₹12 lakh to ₹20 crore (subject to FSSAI criteria)	Above ₹20 crore or specified businesses
Issuing Authority	Local Authority	State Authority	Central Authority
Business Size	Small	Medium	Large
Multi-State Business	No	Limited	Yes

Why is the FSSAI Central License Important?

The **FSSAI Central License** plays a vital role in maintaining food quality and consumer safety. It ensures that businesses follow proper hygiene standards, use safe ingredients, and comply with legal requirements.

The license also helps businesses build trust among customers, suppliers, and government authorities. It becomes easier to expand operations, enter new markets, and work with large retailers or export products internationally.

Conclusion

The **FSSAI Central License** is essential for large food businesses, importers, exporters, manufacturers, and companies operating across multiple states. It demonstrates that your business follows food safety regulations and is committed to providing safe, high-quality food products.

By obtaining an **FSSAI Central License**, businesses can ensure legal compliance, improve customer confidence, expand into new markets, and grow successfully. Preparing the correct documents, following the application process carefully, and renewing the license on time will help your business operate smoothly without legal issues.

Get Expert Help with FSSAI CENTRAL LICENSE

Need help with FSSAI central License Registration? PSR Compliance offers complete assistance with document preparation, application filing, government coordination, and end-to-end support for obtaining your FSSAI central License quickly and hassle-free. Contact our experts today to get started.

👉 Avoid delays, rejections, and compliance issues with expert guidance.

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For more information Visit https://www.psrcompliance.com/fssai-central-license